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of acquaintanceship with the freshly accumulated wealth of pertinent facts and figures. Chief among the subjects that are introduced or given new vitality and discussed in their relation to current thought are the eugenic program, alcoholism, commercialized vice, the Mendelian laws, the Kallikak and other degenerate families, industrial accidents, child labor, pauperism, unemployment, care of dependent children and of the feeble-minded, social insurance, federated philanthropy, state supervision of private charities, boards of social welfare and supervision and control of state charities.

There is little deviation from the point of view originally expressed by Professor Warner. As a consequence the social aspects of intemperance and of immorality are not adequately treated. Classified in this revision as personal causes of degeneration these vices are nevertheless largely a result of controllable social conditions. In a similar way the attack on poverty, although much more vigorously expressed than in previous editions, is unusually conservative and does not definitely attempt to grapple with the problem in a concrete way. Public outdoor relief, which the previous edition says should "usually be discontinued," is now tolerated and emphasis laid on the need of correcting faulty methods of administration, but the recent experiences with public subsidies to private charities indicates no reason for changing the attitude of antagonism to the policy. The chapter on The Trend of Modern Charity, is largely rewritten and emphasizes the need of preventive work. An enlarged and well selected bibliography completes the book.

G. B. M.

*First annual report of the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections of Westchester County, New York.* (East View, Westchester County, N. Y. 1918. Pp. 187.)

*The roots of poverty. Forty-first annual report of the Charity Organization Society of Buffalo.* (Buffalo: The Society, Social Service Bldg. 1918. Pp. 59.)

*Thirty-ninth annual report of the State Board of Charity of Massachusetts, for the year ending November 30, 1917.* (Boston. 1918. Pp. vii, 119.)

### Socialism and Co-operative Enterprises

*The Results of Municipal Electric Lighting in Massachusetts.* By EDMOND EARLE LINCOLN. Hart Schaffner and Marx Prize Essays in Economics. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1918. Pp. xx, 484. \$3.00.)

This book is an attempt to state impartially the facts as to eighteen public and seventeen private electric generating plants, and twenty-one public and sixteen private distributing plants, which purchase their electricity. On the basis of the facts as developed the author attempts to draw "scientific" conclusions as to

the relative merits and shortcomings of public as compared with private ownership and operation. On the whole, he has done fairly well in the collection and presentation of the detailed facts. Public records are supplemented with information secured from local and corporate records and by personal visits. The plants in Massachusetts are chosen because the records for such plants have been kept for a longer period and more accurately and completely than in other states.

The method used by the author is to compare the publicly owned or operated plants with the privately owned and operated plants on points where information of record can be secured, such as: station equipment, fuel consumption, load factor, street lighting costs, rates and service, the connected load, financial results, free service, unit costs in operating expenses, the disposal of net income, labor and wages, and the selection of employees. Certain facts are given as to the local background for each plant, and an appraisement is made as to the operating and distributing conditions surrounding each plant. This is important, as this method requires that the plants be so nearly comparable that a change in form of management from public to private or vice versa would secure the results characteristic of public or of private management, as the case may be, just because of the difference in the type of management.

As a matter of fact the two classes of plants are not exactly comparable, neither as to the charter or legal rights or powers, nor as to operating or distributing facilities and opportunities. For instance, the private companies are "centrally controlled," and this fact, according to the author, gives to the private companies some advantages over the isolated public plants, the only element of "central control" with the public plants being the supervision common to the private plants of the State Board of Gas and Electric Light Commissioners. Again, "in most cases the municipalities acquired their plants because otherwise they would have had no electrical service." A comparison between such of those private plants as are well located commercially with such of those plants as are public in order to get a service private capital would not at that time offer to give, is of little value without proper appraisal.

The author in conclusions and in appraisals leans toward the private rather than the public plant. For instance, he makes such generalizations as:

Under democratic institutions, the larger the governmental body, the less economic and more political it becomes, and the more energy is wasted in accomplishing little. To blaze the trail is the work of a select few, not of the people *en masse*. The electrical industry as *all* industries which reach their perfection will be developed by personal genius and individual effort, urged on by the desire to serve, no doubt, but more potently stimulated by the prospect of material rewards (p. 368).

This is rather a "large" conclusion for the concluding paragraph of a monograph based on the study of about six dozen electric plants in one state. The whole book bears out the inference that these sentences reflect the "point of view" from which the work was done rather than a scientific conclusion based solely on the facts developed. However, the author has done better work even as to his conclusions than most authors in this field have done, while but few equal him in the accuracy and completeness of details and of presentation.

CLYDE L. KING.

#### NEW BOOKS

- BOUGLÉ, C. *Chez les prophètes socialistes.* (Paris: Alcan. 1919. 3.50 fr.)
- DEBS, E. V. *Before the court Nearing.* (New York: People's Print. 1919. Pp. 19. 10c.)
- HALSTEAD, W. R. *The tragedy of labor; a monograph in folk philosophy.* (New York: Abingdon Press. 1919. Pp. 107. 50c.)
- HICKEY, M. J. *Bolshevism. Self-defined and self-convicted. A collection of official decrees.* (Washington: Nat. Assoc. Manufacturers. 1919. Pp. 28.)
- LAIDLER, H. W. *Study courses in socialism.* (New York: Intercollegiate Socialist Society, 70 Fifth Ave. 1919. Pp. 32. 10c.)
- LANZILLO, A. *La disfatta del socialismo: critica della guerra a del socialismo.* (Florence: La Libreria della Voce. 1918. Pp. v, 301.)
- LENSCH, P. *Three years of world revolution.* (London: Constable. 1919. 5s.)
- MYERS, W. S. *Socialism and American ideals.* (Princeton, N. J.: Princeton Univ. Press. 1919. Pp. 100. \$1.)
- RUSSELL, B. *Proposed roads to freedom; socialism, anarchism, and syndicalism.* (New York: Holt. 1919. Pp. iii, 218. \$1.50.)
- TEITSWORTH, G. W. *Democracy against autocracy and socialism.* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Pub. House. 1918. Pp. 122.)
- TODD, A. M. *Municipal ownership, with a special survey of municipal gas plants in America and Europe.* (Chicago: Public Ownership League of America. 1918. Pp. 122.)